



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In re Application of:
Cherry**

Serial No.: 10/701,336

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For: Microwave Oven Cleaner

www.ck12.org

Group Art Unit: 3742

Examiner: Quang T. Van

**Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE
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I hereby certify that this correspondence and the documents referred to as attached therein are being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to the fax number indicated by the Examiner, namely, fax number 571.273.2885 to the attention of the named Examiner, on the date below.

February 15, 2006
Date

Signature

Dear Sir:

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for issuing the Notice of Allowance. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance to the extent that there is any implication that the patentability of the claims rests on the recitation of a single feature. It is the combination of features that makes the claims patentable. For example:

Claim 1 recites an apparatus for cleaning an interior surface of a microwave oven comprising an enclosure disposed at least partially around a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process, wherein the enclosure is breakable, and a cleaning solution comprising a surfactant and compatible with food preparation is in fluid communication with the interior surface of the microwave oven after the enclosure is broken, as do claims 2-3 and 5-7, dependent thereon.

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Claim 8 recites an apparatus for cleaning an interior surface of a microwave oven comprising an enclosure disposed at least partially around a surfactant solution compatible with food preparation, wherein the enclosure is breakable to enable delivery of the surfactant solution onto the interior surface of the microwave oven, and a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process, as do claims 9-10 and 12-14, dependent thereon.

Claim 15 recites a method for cleaning an interior surface of a microwave oven using a cleaning apparatus comprising a cleaning article and an enclosure containing a surfactant solution, comprising heating the cleaning apparatus with microwave energy by operating the microwave oven for a period to evaporate a portion of the surfactant solution while forming a vapor, emitting the vapor from the enclosure into an interior of the microwave oven, condensing at least a portion of the vapor onto the interior surface of the microwave oven for a second period to hydrate a residue adhered thereon, and removing the residue from the interior surface with the cleaning article, as do claims 16-19 and 66, dependent thereon.

Claim 21 recites a method for cleaning an interior surface of a microwave oven, comprising placing a cleaning apparatus in the microwave oven, wherein the cleaning apparatus comprises a cleaning article and a surfactant solution at least partially surrounded by an enclosure, heating the cleaning apparatus for a time period, evaporating at least a portion of the surfactant solution to form a vapor, emitting the vapor from the cleaning apparatus, condensing the vapor on the interior surface, hydrating a residue adhered on the interior surface, and removing the residue from the interior surface with the cleaning article, as do claims 22-24 and 67, dependent thereon.

Claim 25 recites a method for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface, comprising placing a cleaning apparatus into a microwave oven, wherein the cleaning apparatus comprises a cleaning article, a surfactant solution and an enclosure at least partially enclosing the surfactant solution, heating the cleaning apparatus to form a vapor from at least a portion of the surfactant solution, delivering the vapor from the cleaning apparatus to the microwave oven interior surface, loosening a residue adhered on the microwave oven interior surface, and removing the residue from the microwave oven interior surface with the cleaning article, as do claims 26-28 and 68, dependent thereon.

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Claim 29 recites an apparatus for cleaning an interior of a microwave oven comprising an enclosure disposed at least partially around a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process and a surfactant solution compatible with food preparation, wherein the enclosure comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of plastic, paper, cardboard, microwave-safe materials and combinations thereof, and the enclosure is breakable to enable fluid communication between the surfactant solution and the interior of the microwave oven.

Claim 30 recites an apparatus for cleaning an interior of a microwave oven comprising an enclosure disposed at least partially around a surfactant solution compatible with food preparation, wherein the enclosure is breakable to enable fluid communication between the surfactant solution and the interior of the microwave oven, and a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process.

Claim 31 recites a method for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface, comprising placing a cleaning apparatus into a microwave oven, wherein the cleaning apparatus comprises a cleaning article, a cleaning solution and an enclosure at least partially surrounding the cleaning solution, heating the cleaning apparatus to form a vapor from at least a portion of the cleaning solution, delivering the vapor from the cleaning apparatus onto the microwave oven interior surface, loosening a residue adhered on the microwave oven interior surface and removing the residue from the microwave oven interior surface with the cleaning article, as do claims 32-36 and 69, dependent thereon.

Claim 37 recites an apparatus for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface comprising an enclosure disposed at least partially around a cleaning solution comprising water and a fragrance, wherein the enclosure is breakable to enable release of the cleaning solution into a microwave oven interior, and a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process, wherein the enclosure is disposed at least partially around the cleaning article, as do claims 38-43, dependent thereon.

Claim 44 recites an apparatus for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface comprising an enclosure disposed at least partially around an aqueous cleaning solution comprising a fragrance, wherein the enclosure is breakable to enable fluid communication between the aqueous cleaning solution and the microwave oven interior surface, and a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process, as do claims 45-49, dependent thereon.

Atty Dkt: JPC001.C1

Claim 50 recites an apparatus for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface comprising a cleaning article containing a cleaning solution comprising water and a fragrance and at least one component selected from the group consisting of a surfactant, an emulsifier, an antibacterial agent and combinations thereof, and an enclosure at least partially enclosing the cleaning article, wherein the enclosure is breakable to enable dispersion of the cleaning solution onto the microwave oven interior surface.

Claim 51 recites an apparatus for cleaning an interior surface of a microwave oven comprising a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process of the interior surface of the microwave oven, a cleaning solution comprising a surfactant which is compatible with food preparation and able to effect cleaning of the interior surface of the microwave oven, and an enclosure disposed at least partially around the cleaning article and the cleaning solution, wherein the enclosure is breakable to enable dispersion of the cleaning solution, as do claims 52-53, dependent thereon.

Claim 55 recites an apparatus for cleaning an interior surface of a microwave oven comprising a surfactant solution compatible with food preparation at least partially enclosed by an enclosure that is breakable to enable dispersion of the surfactant solution onto the interior surface of the microwave oven, and a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process disposed at least partially within the enclosure and at least partially saturated with the surfactant solution, as does claim 56, dependent thereon.

Claim 57 recites a kit for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface, comprising a cleaning apparatus comprising an enclosure disposed at least partially around a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process, wherein the enclosure is breakable to enable dispersion of a cleaning solution comprising a surfactant and a fragrance into an interior of a microwave oven, and a set of directions comprising placing the cleaning apparatus into the microwave oven, heating the cleaning apparatus by operating the microwave oven for a first period to evaporate a portion of the cleaning solution to form a vapor, maintaining the microwave oven closed for a second period without operating the microwave oven to hydrate a residue adhered on the microwave oven interior surface, and removing the residue from the microwave oven interior surface with the cleaning article, as does claim 70, dependent thereon.

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Claim 58 recites a kit for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface, comprising a cleaning apparatus comprising an enclosure disposed at least partially around a cleaning solution comprising a surfactant and a fragrance, wherein the enclosure is breakable to enable dispersion of the cleaning solution, and a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process, and a set of directions comprising placing the cleaning apparatus into a microwave oven, heating the cleaning apparatus by operating the microwave oven for a first period to evaporate a portion of the cleaning solution to form a vapor, maintaining the microwave oven closed for a second period without operating the microwave oven to hydrate a residue adhered on the microwave oven interior surface, and removing the residue from the microwave oven interior surface with the cleaning article, as does claim 71, dependent thereon.

Claim 59 recites an apparatus for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface comprising a cleaning article selected from the group consisting of a sponge, a cloth, paper, a towel, a paper towel and a shammy, a cleaning solution comprising a solvent and a fragrance, wherein upon being heated, a portion of the cleaning solution forms a cleaning vapor, and an enclosure at least partially enclosing the cleaning solution and the cleaning article, wherein the enclosure is breakable to enable dispersion of the cleaning vapor into a microwave oven interior, as does claim 60, dependent thereon.

Claim 61 recites an apparatus for cleaning a microwave oven interior surface comprising a heated cleaning liquid and a cleaning vapor formed from a cleaning solution comprising a solvent and a fragrance, and an enclosure at least partially enclosing the heated cleaning liquid and a cleaning article for effecting a cleaning process, wherein the enclosure is breakable to enable delivery of the cleaning vapor into a microwave oven interior, as does claim 62, dependent thereon.

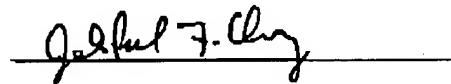
Claim 63 recites an apparatus for cleaning an interior surface of a microwave oven, comprising a microwave-safe enclosure disposed at least partially around a wiping article moistened with an aqueous surfactant solution compatible with food preparation and comprising a fragrance, wherein the microwave-safe enclosure is breakable to enable fluid communication between the aqueous surfactant solution and the interior surface of the microwave oven.

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Claim 64 recites a kit for cleaning an interior surface of a microwave oven, comprising a cleaning apparatus comprising a microwave-safe enclosure disposed at least partially around a wiping article moistened with a cleaning solution comprising a surfactant and a fragrance, wherein the microwave-safe enclosure is breakable to enable dispersion of the cleaning solution, and a set of directions comprising instructions to place the cleaning apparatus into a microwave oven, heat the cleaning apparatus by operating the microwave oven to form a vapor from the cleaning solution for a first time period, cool the cleaning apparatus after operating the microwave oven while keeping the microwave oven closed and loosening a residue adhered on an interior surface of the microwave oven for a second time period, and remove the residue from the interior surface with the wiping article, as does claim 65, dependent thereon.

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12-19, 21-53, and 55-71 are allowable because the references of record do not teach, show, or suggest the combination of features as recited by these claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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